

Patapsco Tributary



**Volume 5
Issue 2**

The Program Newsletter for Patapsco Valley State Park

**Fall & Winter
2006/2007**

Construction of New Bridge Commences: Will Extend the Grist Mill Trail

At long last, construction has begun on a new cable stay bridge that will be erected to extend the park's Grist Mill Trail. The new bridge will connect the Baltimore County side of the river to the Howard County side. It will be a pedestrian bridge that is also expected to handle a high volume of bicycle traffic (please note that motorized vehicles will be prohibited on the bridge). It will be in the Orange Grove area of the park, crossing the Patapsco River at the location of the old Patterson Viaduct, using much of the original alignment of the railroad bridge. It will enable bikers and hikers to cross the river without having to turn around and go back in order to make the long detour around. The new bridge was actually built in the state of Washington. It is being shipped cross-country in several sections and will then be assembled on site this Fall. An official dedication ceremony is being planned, but a date has not yet been determined.

Celebrating the Centennial of Forestry and Parks in Maryland 1906-2006

Maryland was a leader among the states in establishing a program of forest conservation, and out of that forest conservation initiative, Maryland's system of state parks emerged almost immediately.

In 1906, philanthropist brothers John and Robert Garrett challenged the state to establish a forestry program by donating nearly 2000 tree-stripped acres of land in Garrett County to the state on the condition that the state establish the governmental machinery to promote wise use of forest resources. At that time, Maryland's tree cover had been reduced from nearly 90 percent of its land surface when the first colonists arrived to a paltry 35 percent. Maryland was running out of wood, losing wildlife habitat, suffering the ravages of erosion and stream siltation, and being scourged by unchecked forest fires.

The state legislature, spurred by Senators William McCulloh Brown and Joseph B. Seth, with the aid of State Geologist W. Bullock Clark, responded with Maryland's first forestry law, which Governor Edwin Warfield signed into law on April 5, 1906. Maryland was thus the third state in the union, preceded by Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, to establish a statewide forestry program. The law established a Board of Forestry, made up of influential Marylanders, to oversee the management of the Garrett bequest, to institute a statewide program of forest conservation, to accept additional land donations, and to hire a state forester. Acting upon the board's recommendation, Governor Warfield appointed an able young forester working for the U.S. Forest Service, Fred W. Besley, who would serve as Maryland's first State Forester from 1906 until 1942. A Yale School of Forestry trained protégé of Gifford Pinchot, first U.S. Forester Besley proved to be an able and energetic choice.

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Plaque Recognizes Patapsco Valley as Maryland's First State Park

The Maryland Park Service dedicated a plaque in the Hilton area of the park on Tuesday, May 23rd, 2006. It recognizes Patapsco Valley State Park as Maryland's first state park. After welcoming remarks by Captain Gary Burnett, the park's manager, guest speakers included C. Ronald Franks, the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Paul Farragut, President of the Friends of Patapsco Valley State Park, and Robb Bailey, Maryland Park Service Historian. Offutt Johnson, a retired park naturalist, portrayed Fred W. Besley, Maryland's First State Forester and told those assembled how it was back in those early days. After the plaque was unveiled, Colonel Rick Barton, the Superintendent of the Maryland Park Service gave the closing remarks.



Photo by Larry Martin

(l to r) DNR Secretary C. Ronald Franks, State Delegate James Malone, State Delegate Steven DeBoy, Assistant Secretary for Resource Conservation Mike Slattery, Mr. Kirk Rodgers (grandson of Fred W. Besley), Park Manager Captain Gary Burnett and Maryland Park Service Superintendent Colonel Rick Barton with newly dedicated plaque.

The plaque is located adjacent to the tire playground near the restrooms. It has the great seal of the State of Maryland on the upper right and the Maryland Forestry & Parks Centennial 1906-2006 logo on the upper left. The inscription reads as follows, "Patapsco Valley State Park – Maryland's First State Park...In 1907, Catonsville's John Glenn planted the seeds for Patapsco Valley State Park, Maryland's First State Park, by donating 43 acres of his Hilton Estate to the Maryland State Board of Forestry. State Forester F.W. Besley promoted the Patapsco Forest Reserve as a recreational park in 1910 – a pioneering concept. The "park" attracted picnickers and campers from Baltimore City and surrounding communities. By 1916, about 75 campsites were open, accommodating hundreds of campers and thousands of visitors. Patapsco's establishment laid the foundation for today's Maryland State Park System. Now one of Maryland's largest State Parks, Patapsco welcomes visitors and campers from around the world. Dedicated May 23, 2006."

Upward Bound Program Students Plant Trees at Avalon

On June 30, 2006, approximately 35 students ranging in age from 13-17 years old with adult supervisors from the Community College of Baltimore County Dundalk Campus' Upward Bound Program planted trees at the entrance to the Avalon area. The project was the summer program's yearly community service activity. The focus of the project was conservation and ecology. Members of the park's trail crew, Amy Lutsko and Jen Cashell, prepared the site prior to the group's arrival and then worked closely with the students. The enthusiasm and excitement about their accomplishments was clear as some students said they wanted to come back next year to see how the trees are doing.

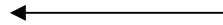


Photo by Larry Martin

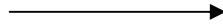
TRAIL CREW IMPROVES & UPGRADES THE PARK'S TRAIL SYSTEM



BEFORE



AFTER



Photos by Amy Lutsko

This section of the Ridge Trail in the Avalon area of Patapsco Valley State Park suffered extensive erosion creating this five foot deep, forty foot long gully. By re-routing the trail onto surrounding contours including construction of this climbing turn, the Trail Crew was able to close off this dangerous section of trail." Volunteers can assist the Trail Crew on the remaining 3 Volunteer Trail Work Days on **August 12th**, **September 30th** (National Public Lands Day), and **October 21st**. If you are interested in helping our award winning Trail Crew improve and upgrade the park's trail system, please contact Larry Martin, the park's Volunteer Coordinator, at (410) 465-3287 or by email at: lmartin@dnr.state.md.us.

2006 Garlic Mustard Challenge Sets New Record

On May 7, 2006, 119 people participated in the 7th annual Garlic Mustard Challenge. 82 pullers on 21 teams pulled a record 1,877.8 total pounds of the invasive plants. 1st Place went to The Schwensilders who collected 417.4 pounds. The 1st Place winner of the Garlic Mustard Challenge poster contest was Nina Kempic (age 9), a 4th grader at St. John's Elementary School in Ellicott City. The Garlic Mustard cooking contests were won by Ray Bahr of Catonsville who took 1st Place honors in the Adult amateur chef category with his "Garlic Mustard Asparagus", while Alex Streat of Elkridge won 1st Place in the youth amateur chef category with his "Garlic Mustard Meat Loaf". To date, 6,730 pounds of garlic mustard has been removed as a result of this event held annually on the first Sunday of May.




Photo by Hilde Martin


The Winning Team: (l to r) Brian Schexnayder, Van Wensil, Hanum Wensil-Strow, and Kelci Schexsnayder.


Fall & Winter Program Calendar for 2006/2007


Program fees do not include park admission. Addresses & directions to ALL program locations are on page 7.

 Denotes programs suitable for wheelchairs. Accommodations for individuals with disabilities will be provided upon request. Seven days advance notice is requested.

August

 **6 - "Being a Child in the 1800s", Avalon History Center, 2:00-3:30p.m.** Come learn what it was like to be a child in the early 1800s. This is a hands-on program of toys, games & fun. Cost: \$2/person. Call 410-737-0451 in advance to sign up.


 **11 - Story Time by the Fire, Avalon/Glen Artney, Shelter #10, 7:30-8:30p.m.** Hear some captivating stories & learn some new things in the light of the fire with some live animals. Bring a flashlight. Weather permitting, we will go on a short walk. Rain or shine. Cost: \$5/person. Call 410-442-1454 in advance to sign up.

 **12 - "Bats, Bats, Bats", Soldiers Delight Visitors Center, 4:00-5:00p.m.** Come join us for a program that will raise the hairs on the back of your head. Learn about these extraordinary creatures & receive a free set of plans to build your own bat box. Cost: \$2/person. Call 410-922-3044 in advance to sign up.

12 - Owl Prowl, Soldiers Delight, 8-10p.m. Join us for a night hike to listen for owls, followed by a program featuring the owls from the Scales & Tales program. Meet at Visitor Center. Call 410-922-3044 in advance to sign up. *Cost: \$5 per person.*


18 - Star-gazing Program, Soldiers Delight, 8-10 p.m. Come out & explore the universe with the Westminster Astronomy Club. Join us & find out why "Chicken Little was right." Explore the world of meteors, comets & the moon. Door prize. Held indoors if raining. Bring a flashlight, jacket, chair & good walking shoes. Meet at Visitor Center. Call 410-922-3044 in advance to sign up. *Free!*

23 - Scenic Fun Hike, Hilton area, 6:30-8:00p.m. Join us for a leisurely hike; loop along the Forest Glen, Sawmill Branch & Santee Trails. Stops to enjoy the forest and stream. A few steep areas, wear sturdy shoes & bring water. Meet at parking lot at Forest Glen Trail sign near Shelter #201. Cost: \$2/person. Call 410-737-0451 in advance to sign up.

 **27 - History of the Patapsco River, Avalon History Center, 11a.m.-1p.m.** So much history in this river... Come hear the many stories about her, given by Mother Nature. Refreshments will be served. Meet at the Avalon History Center, 5120 South Street, Halethorpe, MD 21227. *Cost: \$2 per person.* Please call in advance to sign up. *Call 410-737-0451.*

1 - "Creatures of the Night", McKeldin area, 7-8p.m. Join us & learn the mystery of some of the night's most endearing animals & hear a Native American story of how one came to be. Live animals will be shown. Bring a flashlight. Weather permitting, we will go on a short hike. Cost: \$5/person. Call 410-442-1454 in advance to sign up.

3 - Barrens Butterflies- Slide Show & Hike, Soldiers Delight, 1-4p.m. One of the area's leading butterfly experts will present a slide show on barrens butterflies & lead a 2 mile hike through the globally rare serpentine barrens ecosystem. Many native grasses & wildflowers will be examined & identified. Close-up binoculars are recommended, but catch-and-release (with in-jar examination) will be included. Cancelled if it is raining. Meet at Visitor Center. Call 410-922-3044 in advance to sign up. *Cost: \$5 per person.*

 **3 - Gourmet Outdoor Cooking, Hollofield area, Shelter #358, 4-8pm.** Hot dogs and hamburgers your standard outdoor fare? Spice up your camping experience with baked chicken, biscuits and cakes cooked over a campfire, plus other tips to make you a Gourmet Outdoor Cook! Appetite required. Suggested donation \$8/ person. Call 410-461-5005 in advance to sign up.

9 - Birding by Bike, Avalon/Orange Grove, 8-10a.m. Cruise the paved trails of Avalon & Orange Grove looking for birds. 7 miles of slow biking with frequent stops. Bring bike, helmet, water, binoculars & field guide. *Meet at Avalon History Center.* *Cost: \$2/person.* Call 410-567-1216 in advance to sign up.

9 - Railroad History Hike, 9-11:30am. Join park historian Robb Bailey on a walk to see both existing and abandoned stretches of the B&O Railroad-America's first railroad. Bring water & wear good walking shoes. *Cost: \$2/person.* Call 410-260-8172 in advance to sign up and get directions to meeting place.

9 - Owl Prowl, Soldiers Delight, 8-10p.m. See details under 8/12 Owl Prowl listing.

10 - Wildflower Hike, Soldiers Delight, 2-4p.m. Soldiers Delight is home to many rare and unique wildflowers. Join us for a guided hike to find some of the wonders of the area. Cameras are encouraged; picking flowers is prohibited. Meet at Visitor Center. Call 410-922-3044 in advance to sign up. *Cost: \$2 per person.*

15 - Story Time by the Fire, Avalon/Glen Artney, Shelter #10, 7:00-8:00p.m. See details of 8/11 program listing.

16 - Scenic Hike, McKeldin area, 10a.m.-12p.m.
Join one of our volunteer naturalists for this interesting & informative hike of the popular Switchback Trail. Wear sturdy shoes or boots & bring water. *Cost: \$2 per person.* Meet at the Contact Station. Call 410-442-1454 in advance to sign up.

16 - "Bats, Bats, Bats", Soldiers Delight Visitors Center, 4:00-5:00p.m. See details of 8/12 program listing.

16 - Star-gazing Program, Soldiers Delight, 8-10p.m. See details of 8/18 Star-gazing program listing.

20 - Scenic Fun Hike, Avalon/Orange Grove area, 6:30-8:00p.m. Join us for a leisurely hike up the Cascade Falls Trail to Landing Road & back. Enjoy the beautiful views at the falls. Wear sturdy shoes & bring water. *Cost: \$2/person.* Meet at the Swinging Bridge. Call 410-737-0451 in advance to sign up.

23 - Fall Migrant Birds, Morgan Run South, 8-11a.m. Now marks the end of the breeding season for birds, when many begin their migration to their wintering grounds in the tropics. Many species that breed north of Maryland pass through on their way south. Now is a good time to see these thrushes and warblers that only come through during migration, and the last time to see many of our breeding birds. Bring your binoculars & bird field guide. Meet at parking lot at north end of Ben Rose Lane. From MD #26 & MD #97 west of Eldersburg, go 2 miles north on #97 to Bartholow Road. Go right on Bartholow about 0.1 mile, turn left onto Jim Bowers Road & left again immediately onto Ben Rose Lane. Go about 0.5 mile to end. Donations Welcome. Call 410-549-1530 in advance to sign up.

October

7 - Owl Prowl, Soldiers Delight, 8-10p.m.
See details of 8/12 Owl Prowl listing.

14 - Star-gazing Program, Soldiers Delight, 8-10p.m.
See details 8/18 Star-gazing program listing.

15 - Fall Wildflower Hike - Soldiers Delight, 2-4p.m. See details of 9/10 Wildflower Hike listing.

17 - Scenic Fun Hike, Hilton area, 6:30-8:00p.m.
See details of 8/23 Scenic Fun Hike listing.

21 - Kid's Leaf Rubbing Hike, Soldiers Delight, 10:30a.m.-12:00p.m. Come be dazzled by the colors of fall! Explore forest trails & make rubbings of beautiful fall leaves. Use your leaf rubbings to create a nature inspired work of art! Dress for the season; wear sturdy shoes & bring water, sunscreen & bug repellent. Hike is about a mile long over easy terrain. Chaperone participation welcome. Meet at Visitor Center. Call 410-547-9000x610 in advance to sign up. *Cost: \$2 per person.*

21 - Owl Prowl, Avalon/Orange Grove area, 7:30-10p.m.
Join us for a sunset walk on a paved, wheelchair-friendly trail listening for owls, followed by a program featuring some live owls. *Cost: \$5 per person.* Call 410-567-1216 in advance to sign up and to get directions to meeting place.

22 - Scales & Tales Photo Shoot, Soldier's Delight, 8-10a.m.
Bring your camera & come join park staff & volunteers for an opportunity to photograph some of our native birds of prey from the Scales & Tales program up close & personal in a natural setting. Meet at Visitor Center. Call 410-922-3044 in advance to sign up. *Cost: \$15 per person.*

29 - "Become Unplugged", Avalon area, 11a.m. -1p.m.
A brisk walk on a beautiful Fall morning. Feel the leaves crackle of under your feet. Feel the cool breeze on your cheeks. Make a "fence post pumpkin" and refresh yourself with hot cider and a donut or two. Meet at Avalon/Glen Artney shelter #10. Call 410-737-0451 in advance to sign up. *Limited to 20 participants. Cost: \$2.00 per person.*

29 - Fall Foliage Hike, McKeldin area, 1-3p.m.
Join one of our volunteer naturalists for this interesting & informative hike of the popular Switchback Trail and enjoy the Fall colors. Wear sturdy shoes or boots, and bring water. *Cost: \$2 per person.* Meet at the Contact Station, Call 410-442-1454 in advance to sign up.

29 - Mining History Hike, Soldiers Delight, 2-4:30p.m.
Join a mining expert for this fascinating hike & demonstration of mining history at Soldiers Delight. Meet at Visitor Center. Call 410-329-3417 in advance to sign up. *Cost: \$2 per person.*

November

4 - Scenic Fun Hike, Avalon/Orange Grove area, 10:00-11:30a.m. See details of 9/20 Scenic Fun Hike listing.

4 - Owl Prowl, Soldiers Delight, 8-10 p.m.
See details of 8/12 Owl Prowl listing.

12 - "Where Do Animals Go in Winter?" Hollofield area, 11a.m.-1p.m. Who sleeps, who doesn't? A den or a nest? See if you can match the animal to the habitat. Refreshments after a brief hike to locate sleep shelters. Call 410-737-0451 in advance to sign up. *Limited to 20 participants. Cost: \$2.00 per person.*

18 - Star-gazing Program, Soldiers Delight, 8-10p.m. See details of 8/18 Star-gazing program listing.

December 2006 thru March 2007

12/9, 1/20, 2/17 & 3/17 - Star-gazing Programs, Soldiers Delight, 8-10p.m. Brave the cold! See details of 8/18 Star-gazing program listing.

(CENTENNIAL Continued from page 1)

Besley realized almost immediately that one good way to promote the forestry agenda was to encourage the public to use forest reserves for recreational purposes. When, in 1907, John Glenn, a resident of Catonsville, donated the beginnings of another forest reserve along the Patapsco River near Baltimore, Besley saw the opportunity to entice Baltimore area residents to come recreate in the great out-of-doors, and by 1910 was informally calling the Patapsco Forest Reserve "Patapsco Park." By 1912, Besley had developed a small recreation area along the river, and by the middle of the decade, people were flocking out of Baltimore to picnic, swim and camp at the "park." Now a 14,000 acre, 32 mile long stretch of public land, Patapsco Valley State Park hosts over a half million visitors a year.

Besides establishing additional forest reserves and parks, Fred W. Besley taught forestry practices at the University of Maryland and established the first state tree nursery there. He also traveled, in his words, "every cow path in Maryland" producing a comprehensive inventory of all tree stands in the state that exceeded 5 acres. He gave illustrated talks to farmers, lumbermen, public service groups, and to anyone who would listen, on the benefits of wise forest management. He and his small staff provided advice to wood lot owners on how best to manage their forest resources, and created a roadside tree program to beautify Maryland's growing network of public highways. Most significantly, Besley created a staff of over 300 volunteer forest wardens, along with a network of more than 40 fire towers, across the state to reduce the incidence of forest fires, an effort at which the wardens succeeded splendidly. After the legislature started providing money for forest reserve acquisition, Besley purchased historic Fort Frederick, a relic of the French and Indian War (1756-1763), which, like Patapsco, was informally known as a park. He thus earned the gratitude of people who wanted the ruined fort preserved in the public interest.

With the acquisition of state-owned forest lands came the necessity of paid employees to watch over it. By 1916, Besley had two salaried "resident forest wardens" on duty, Edmund G. Prince of the Patapsco Reserve and Abraham Lincoln Sines of the Potomac Reserve (now Garrett State Forest in Garrett County). As more lands were acquired, with some dedicated for recreational use, it eventually became necessary to hire forest and park guards to assist the wardens with protecting the resources and assisting the public in the use and enjoyment of forests and parks. Out of this early workforce has grown today's force of professional resource managers, forest and park rangers, technicians, conservation aids and other forest and park resource specialists.

The Great Depression of the 1930s, as devastating as it was to the nation as a whole, proved a boon to forest and park development. One of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal programs was the Civilian Conservation Corps, which, in Maryland, put 30,000 young unemployed men to work reclaiming forest and other natural resources, building recreational facilities and restoring historic structures on public lands. Most of the recreational facilities that the CCC built in Maryland forests and parks are in use today. Besley later stated that all the good works of the CCC set Maryland's forests and parks ahead by 20 years.

During the Second World War, despite the drain of manpower to the military, public demand for outdoor recreation remained constant, then accelerated after the war as prosperity returned. Maryland strove to keep up, placing new emphasis upon carving state parks out of existing state forest land and acquiring new parks altogether. In 1969, the State established Program Open Space, a dedicated tax fund that added tens of thousands of new acres to the state's park system. Today, Maryland's system of state forests and parks provides over 300,000 acres of public lands. Eleven million visitors come to these valuable resources each year and contribute over \$300 million dollars to the state's economy. There is a state forest or park within 20 miles of every state resident. Both Marylanders and visitors to the "Old Line State" enjoy a precious outdoor resource thanks to the farsightedness of Fred Besley and the many other dedicated forest and park professionals over the past century.



Fred W. Besley
Maryland's first State
Forester

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Fall Picnic Planned

The Friends of Patapsco Valley State Park have scheduled their Fall picnic for the afternoon of Sunday, October 15, 2006 in the Shelter #106 near the swinging bridge in the Avalon/Orange Grove area of the park. A nominal fee will be charged to cover the cost of food and live music. For more information or to receive an invitation, please contact Linda Dobson by email at lindadobson@comcast.net or call 410-218-6827.

ONLINE INFORMATION

The **Patapsco Tributary** is also available on the DNR website:

<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/central/patapscovalley.html>

Visit the DNR website to find out about camping reservations, special events, hunting & fishing information, outdoor adventures, and more!

For more information about the Centennial of Forestry & Parks in Maryland, visit <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/centennial/>

Directions to Patapsco Valley State Park

Pickall Area, 8125 Johnnycake Road, Baltimore 21207

From the Beltway (I-695):

Take Security Blvd. (Exit 17) west-bound. Go 0.5 mile and turn left on North Rolling Rd. Take next right (Fairbrook Rd) Go 1 mile, turn left onto Johnnycake Rd. Go 1.5 miles. Park entrance is on the left.

From Rt. 40:

Take Rt. 40 to North Rolling Rd. toward Security Square Mall. Go 2.5 miles, turn left onto Fairbrook Rd. Follow above directions.

Hollofield Area, 8020 Baltimore National Pike, Ellicott City 21043

From the Beltway (I-695):

Take Rt. 40 West, (Exit 15). Follow Rt. 40 West 2 miles to the park entrance on the right.

From I-70/Route 29

Take Rt. 29 South (Exit 87) to Rt. 40 East 2 miles to the park entrance on the right.

McKeldin Area, 3001 Marriottsville Road, Marriottsville 21104

From I-695/I-70 West:

Take I-70 to Marriottsville Rd. (Exit 83). Go North on Marriottsville Rd. for 4 miles to the park entrance on the right.

From I-70 East:

Take Rt. 40 to Marriottsville Rd. Turn left. Park entrance is 5 miles on the right.

From Rt. 26

Take Rt. 26 to Marriottsville Rd. Go South 4 miles, park entrance on the left.

Hilton Area, 1100 Hilton Ave., Catonsville 21228

From the Beltway (I-695):

Take Frederick Rd. (Exit 13) through Catonsville to South Rolling Rd. Turn left and continue straight onto Hilton Ave. Follow Hilton Ave. 1.5 miles to the park entrance on right.

From Howard County:

Follow Frederick Rd. through Ellicott City into Baltimore County, turn right at South Rolling Rd. and follow directions above.

Avalon/Glen Artney/Orange Grove & Lost Lake Areas, 5120 South St., Halethorpe 21227

From the Beltway (I-695):

Take Rt. 1 (exit 12A) toward Elkridge. Follow Rt. 1 South about 3 miles to South St. Turn right. Park entrance on the left.

From I-95:

Take I-195 East toward BWI. From I-195 take Rt. 1 South (Exit 3) and turn right toward Elkridge. Turn right onto South Street. Park entrance is on the left.

From Howard County:

Follow Rt. 1 through Elkridge and into Baltimore County. Turn left onto South St. Park entrance is on the left.

Soldiers Delight NEA, 5100 Deer Park Road, Owings Mills, 21117

From the Beltway (I-695):

Take I-795 to Franklin Blvd. West, turn right. Bear right at Church Rd. Turn left at stop sign onto Berrymans Lane. Turn left at Deer Park Rd. and go for 2.5 miles, to Visitor Center entrance on the right.

From Rt. 26 West :

Take Rt. 26 to Wards Chapel Rd. Turn Left. Follow Wards Chapel to stop sign, and turn right onto Deer Park Rd. Entrance is 1 mile on right.



Maryland Department of Natural Resources
Patapsco Valley State Park
8020 Baltimore National Pike
Ellicott City, MD 21043

Phone: 410-461-5005
Fax: 410-418-9750
Email: park-patapsco@dnr.state.md.us
TTY users call via the MD Relay



Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., Governor
Michael S. Steele, Lt. Governor
C. Ronald Franks, Secretary

website: www.dnr.Maryland.gov
Toll-free in MD: 1-877-620-8DNR

Welcome to the Patapsco Tributary

The *Tributary* is a parkwide program newsletter published twice per year through the cooperative efforts of park staff and volunteers. Your suggestions and/or opinions are welcome and can be delivered to Park Management at the above phone or fax numbers or email address.

Patapsco Valley State Park Hours of Operation:

Park Headquarters: Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. phone 410-461-5005

Scales & Tales: Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. phone 410-461-5005

Soldiers Delight NEA: phone 410-922-3044 (call for Visitor Center Hours)

Avalon History Center: phone 410-461-5005 (call for History Center hours)

ALL OTHER AREAS OF THE PARK ARE OPEN AS FOLLOWS:

April 1-Oct 31: 9a.m. to Sunset ; Nov 1-March 31: 10a.m. to Sunset

TO MAKE SHELTER OR CAMPING RESERVATIONS CALL:

1-888-432-CAMP or log on to <http://reservations.dnr.state.md.us>



PARK WATCH

In case of emergency
dial 911

To report a violation in
the Park or to contact a
Ranger call
1-800-825-PARK

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